

## **Marine Safety Office (MSO) Honolulu Y2K Readiness Exercise Conducted September 2, 1999**

### **Executive Summary**

The Marine Safety Office (MSO) Honolulu conducted a Y2K exercise with port and industry stakeholders on September 2, 1999 for a period of 3 hours. Players included representatives from other United States Coast Guard (USCG) units, state agencies, the maritime industry, the petroleum industry, and shipping agents.

The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the MSO's Y2K Business Continuity and Contingency Plan (BCCP) and to discuss the Y2K plans of the other port players. The tabletop exercise consisted of a discussion of several emergency scenarios, each occurring several minutes before or after midnight December 31, 1999. The discussions covered mitigating strategies, response procedures, communication plans, personnel/equipment readiness and deployment, and backup power and communication sources.

The exercise was a success because it promoted coordination and awareness among the port community while identifying specific lessons learned that will serve to improve readiness for the millennium change.

### **Background**

MSO Honolulu has developed a BCCP to identify specific contingency plans and procedures that can be implemented in the event of Y2K related failures and other emergencies. The plan contains strategies to mitigate risks and documents procedures and assignments to enable emergency response while continuing normal operations. The BCCP addresses all factors of MSO operations including communication with unit personnel, with other USCG units, and with other emergency response groups; back-up communication equipment such as pagers, cell phones, VHF-FM radios and satellite phones; back-up power sources for facilities and equipment such as batteries and emergency generators; staffing; supply and logistics; and personal services such as food and berthing for watchstanders.

The primary purpose of the plan is to ensure readiness for Y2K critical dates; however, the planning provides an excellent framework to address any emergency situation.

### **Step 1 – Establish Major Objectives**

The major objective for the exercise was to evaluate the MSO's Y2K Plan and review the plans and system workarounds of the other players.

### **Step 2 – Identify Exercise Participants**

Participants are listed in the table on the next page.

Participant Type	Participant
<b>Port Stakeholder</b>	
	Chevron Products Company
	Matson
	Sea Land Service Incorporated
	Smith Maritime
	Tesoro Hawaii Corporation
	Transmarine Navigation
<b>State/Local Government</b>	
	Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT), Harbors Division
<b>United States Coast Guard</b>	
	Marine Safety Office, Honolulu
	Group Honolulu
	USCG District 14

Table 1 – Honolulu Exercise Participants

### Step 3 – Develop Exercise Scenario(s)

The MSO Honolulu exercise was a tabletop discussion that consisted of several scenarios, with each of the scenarios occurring several minutes before or after midnight on December 31, 1999.

- **TableTop Discussion**
  - Thick Smoke Covers Populated Areas and Offshore Honolulu and Waikiki
  - Loss of Electricity City-Wide
  - Loss of Telephone Systems Island Wide
  - Loss of Ship's Systems
  - Computer Problems on Cruise Ship in Port
  - Drunk Boaters
  - Oil Spills
  - Fire at Matson Terminal
  - Panic by the Public
  - Flare Sightings
  - Pleasure Boat Collision at Sea
  - Boating Collision with Injuries

### Step 4 – Conduct Exercise Activities

This section presents the primary MSO Honolulu exercise activities. Note that Y2K related system and equipment casualties described in the scenarios were simulated.

- **TableTop Discussion**
  - The scenarios were verbally identified to the players one event at a time.
  - Each event was then addressed by the players that would likely be impacted.
  - The event and the potential solutions were then open for group discussion.

## Step 5 – Conduct Post Exercise Analysis

The results of the post exercise analysis are provided in the table below.

No.	Observation/Explanation	Lesson Learned	Recommended Action
1	Communications between players is essential to handling any Y2K issues.	All players must identify the methods of communication that they will be using such as UHF, VHF, satellite phones, cell phones, etc. and share this information with the other players.	Develop and distribute communication plans to other port stakeholders. Exchange radio channel numbers and satellite phone numbers before Y2K. The local phone company will have a command center established for Y2K. All players will have hand held UHF and VHF radios, with battery charging capabilities provided by generators.
2	Contingency plans of other emergency response units need to be identified.	Contingency operations of emergency response units such as the Hawaii Civil Defense need to be identified and coordinated with other emergency units.	Coordinate with Hawaii Civil Defense.
3	Group observed that most recreational boaters seem to be well behaved in Hawaii, and those that host parties tend to be anchored.	Methods to increase public awareness of Y2K issues and foster preparedness must be developed.	The Hawaii Operational Safety Team (HOST) is addressing issues raised at the drill and will be sponsoring distribution of flyers to boaters immediately prior to Y2K. Hawaii Civil Defense, Hawaii DOT Harbors Division, and the Hawaii DLNR will also distribute flyers and/or draft public announcements.
4	Y2K risks need to be mitigated.	Methods to avoid potential problems need to be identified and implemented by the players.	Key players have voluntarily changed schedules and some will suspend or reduce operations during the millennium change until all systems are verified as operational.
5	Backup power must be available in the event of failures in the commercial power grid.	Backup power requirements need to be identified, systems procured preventive maintenance conducted, and systems tested.	All players have backup generators that will handle operations for a considerable amount of time, as necessary. The local electric company will establish a command center for Y2K.

No.		Lesson Learned	Recommended Action
6	For flare reports/sightings, Group would investigate the report with a CG Airstation Helicopter.	A means to reduce false flare reports needs to be identified.	There is a standard set of interview questions that watchstanders know to ask the reporting party which would reduce the possibility that the report was false.
7	There may be difficulty making calls on the landline phone system.	There are cards that can be purchased that give the caller the highest priority on a busy landline phone system.	D14 will be purchasing these cards for all CG assets.
8	There will be numerous fireworks displays on December 31, 1999.	Low visibility from land launched fireworks may be a significant issue for Hawaii boaters. Boaters with no radar equipment may be stranded due to zero visibility.	Group will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners or Safety Broadcast educating boaters about what to do, or request that vessels remain where they are until the smoke clears.

Table 2 – Honolulu Exercise Results

**For More Information*****Contact the USCG Representatives***

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***Or, Visit the Web Sites***

Marine Safety Office: <http://www.aloha.net/~msohono/>